

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06804 171857Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, CB, US, (TIOULONG, NHIEK)

SUBJECT: NHIEK TIOULONG'S PROPOSAL

REF: (A) STATE 58851 (EXDIS); (B) PARIS 5699; (C) PARIS
5966

1. REFERENCES B AND C RECOUNT MOST RECENT CONTACTS WITH
GENERAL NHIEK TIOULONG. TIOULONG PROVIDED ARTICLE IN
FRENCH (DATED FEBRUARY 25) CONCERNING RESOLUTION OF
CAMBODIAN PROBLEM, BUT IT WAS MERELY FRENCH ORIGINAL OF
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE.

2. TIOULONG HAS CONTINUED TO SEEK PUBLICITY THROUGH
"RALLYING TO SIHANOUK" AND INTERVIEW WITH AFP (ALSO
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT). IN AFP INTERVIEW HE SHOWS A
CLEAR SHIFT TOWARD GREATER SUPPORT FOR THE KHMERS ROUGES
WHEN HE SAYS "I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN KHIEU SAMPHAN. I
DON'T BELIEVE THAT HANOI INFLUENCES THEM (KHMERS ROUGES).
THEY ARE NATIONALISTS AND INDEPENDENT". SUCH EVOLUTION
IN TIOULONG'S THOUGHT IS PERHAPS THE RESULT OF FURTHER
VIEWS FROM PEKING (PARA 2 OF REF C) AS WELL AS THE GENER-
AL EVOLUTION OF THE KHMER SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF "KHMER PATRIOTS
COMMITTEE" AND TIOULONG MADE NO REFERENCE TO IT. IT IS
LIKELY THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY BEEN CREATED BY
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TIOULONG TO IMPLY THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION OF PRO-

SIHANOUK NATIONALISTS. AS WE NOTED PREVIOUSLY, TIOULONG APPARENTLY DOES RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM SIHANOUK, BUT HIMSELF ADMITS THAT THEY CONVEY THE "PUBLIC POSITION", SINCE MONSEIGNEUR HAS NO SAFE MEANS EVEN THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES TO REVEAL HIS "INNERMOST THOUGHTS". WE THEREFORE CONSIDER THAT EVEN TIOULONG WOULD AGREE THAT HE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS "AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN FOR SIHANOUK".
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